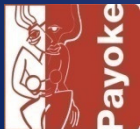


Belgium's way of assisting and supporting victims of human trafficking

Patsy Sörensen
Director, Payoke NGO

Project „Polish Integration Forum” is co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals and the state budget



Conference: Human trafficking and migration – Support and reintegration of trafficking survivors
The Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw
28-29 June 2010

Payoke: Who we are

Our Mission

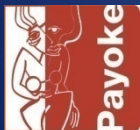
Reception and specialized assistance to victims

Self-reliance and (re-)integration

Formulating recommendations

Our Work

- Residential Care / Shelter
- Legal Assistance
- Administrative Support
- Psychosocial support
- Ambulant Care
- Information and Training



Payoke: What we do

Legal Assistance

- ⊙ Advice and assistance throughout legal proceedings
- ⊙ Contacts and mediation with police, justice, and legal profession
- ⊙ Start legal proceedings in name of the client and/or in name of Payoke

Administrative Support

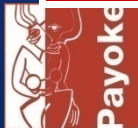
- ⊙ Request for residence documents
- ⊙ Request for work permits
- ⊙ Arrangements with social services, health insurers, etc.

Psycho-Social Support

- ⊙ Dealing with trauma (coordinating psychological counseling)
- ⊙ Assistance with integration (registering for language classes, finding a job, support for administrative and social formalities, and ambulant support)
- ⊙ Coordination of medical assistance

Assistance in Returning

- ⊙ In partnership with IOM, assist in returning to country of origin



Key concerns of victims

Insecurity of their situation

- *Will I be able to stay? Will I be deported?*
- *Will I be free to live here on my own?*
- *Will my trafficker find out I am seeking assistance?*
- *Will I be able to find a job?*
- *Will I ever get over this?*
- *Will I be able to make it on my own?*
- *Will my children be alright?*

Financial situation

- *How can I pay back my debt to the traffickers?*
- *How will my family at home get by without me making money?*
- *How can I afford to live on my own without a good paying job?*
- *How will I find a job so that I can start making money?*

Their emotional state

- *Will I ever be able to move on with my life?*
- *Will I have the confidence needed to start a new life?*
- *Will I ever be able to see my family at home again?*
- *Am I worthy of a new start?*
- *Am I responsible for this situation?*
- *How could I have been so stupid?*
- *How can I ever tell my family what happened?*
- *Will I ever be able to trust people again?*

Safety of family

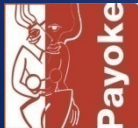
- *Will my trafficker find my family?*
- *Will my trafficker force my family to pay the debt?*
- *Will my trafficker hurt my child/ren?*
- *Will my trafficker retaliate against my family?*

Their safety

- *Will my trafficker find me?*
- *Will I be able to walk around the city without fear?*
- *What if someone recognises me and tells my trafficker where I am?*
- *What will happen to the other people I worked with if my trafficker finds out I got assistance?*
- *Will the trafficker be able to get to my children?*
- *Will I have protection while at the shelter?*
- *Will the police protect me?*
- *Is someone available to help me when I need it?*

Medical conditions

- *Will I have to get an HIV test?*
- *Will I have to tell people if I am HIV positive?*
- *Will I be deported if I am HIV positive?*
- *Where do I go to get my illness treated?(if terminally/chronically ill)*
- *Will I be able to have children?*



Key needs of victims



Information



Medical assistance



Structure



Feeling of trust



Safety



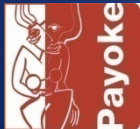
Peace and quiet



Respect

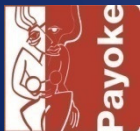
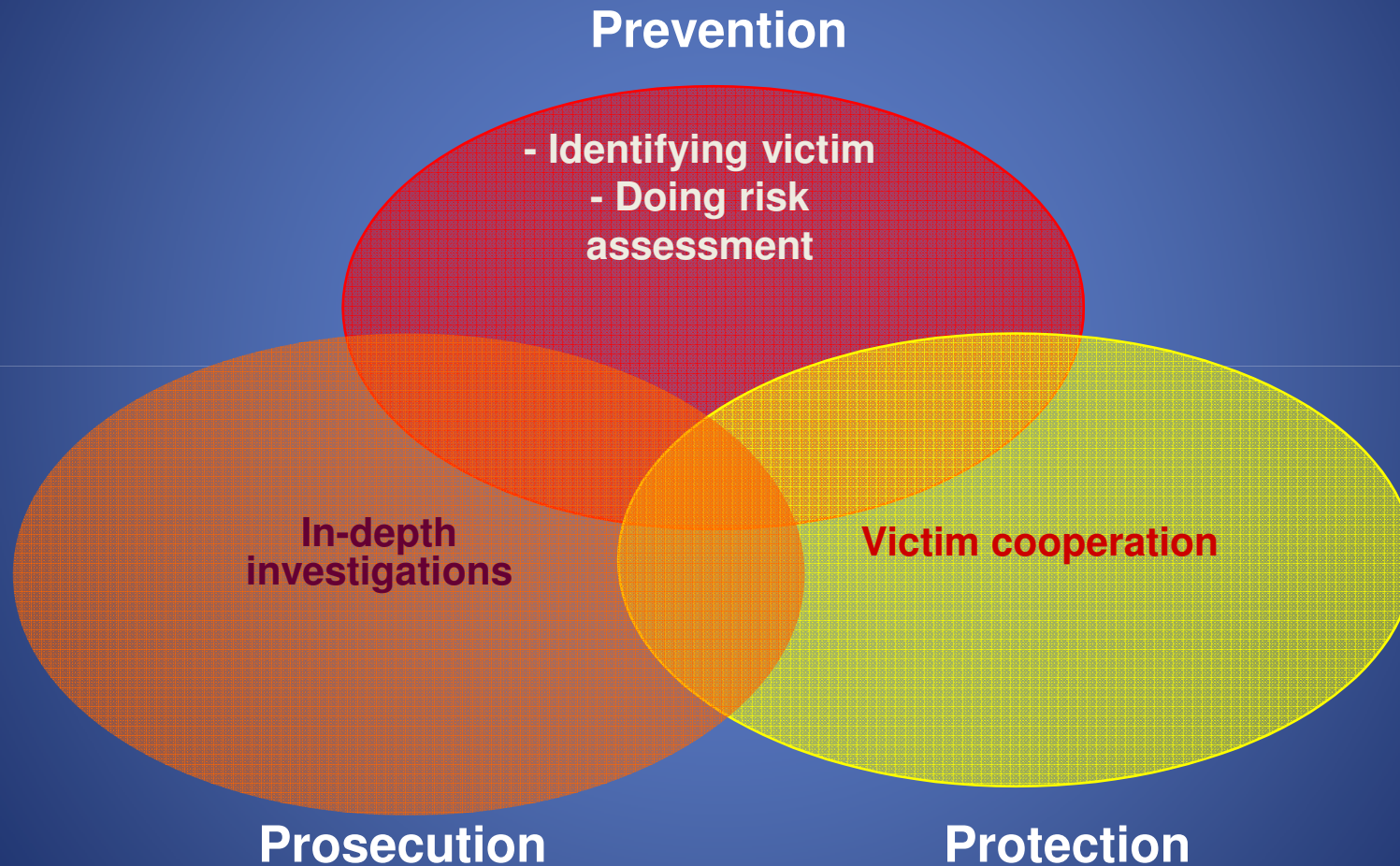


A future perspective



What does Belgium do to protect and assist victims of human trafficking?

The Belgian Strategy to Fight Human Trafficking



Strategy into Practice



Our Cooperation Model

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION UNIT

MINISTRY
OF
JUSTICE

MINISTRY
OF
THE INTERIOR

MINISTRY
OF
EMPLOYMENT

MINISTRY
of
SOCIAL SECURITY

- Board of Prosecutors General
- Service for Criminal Policy
- Expertise network of the Board of Prosecutors General

Policy
Department

Policy
Department

Policy
Department

Centre for
Equal
Opportunities and
Opposition
to Racism

OPERATIONAL

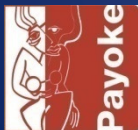
- Federal Office of the Public Prosecutor
- State Security

- Central Service of the Federal Police, Directorate-General of Criminal Investigation
- Immigration Service

Social
Inspection
Services

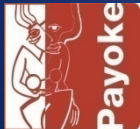
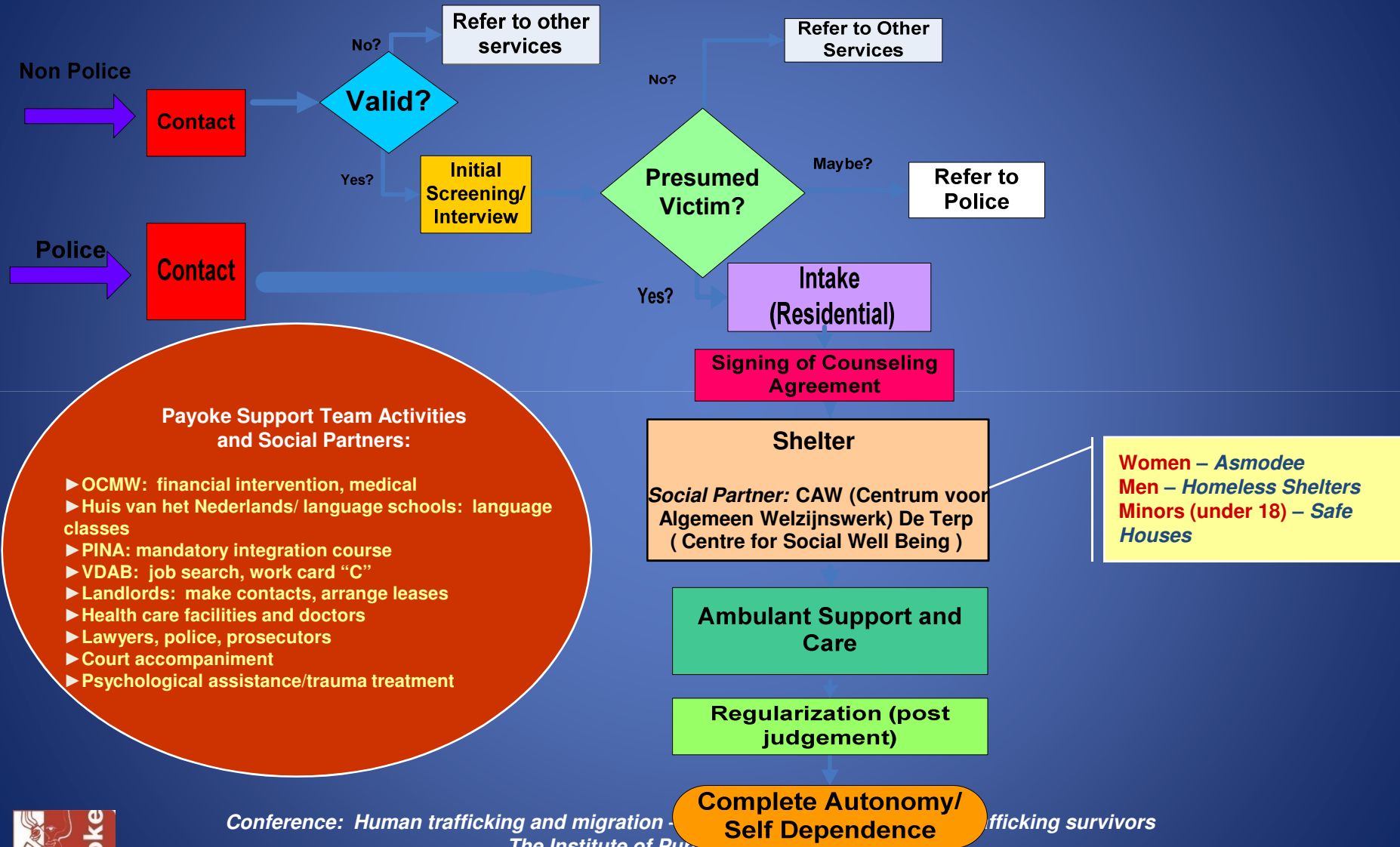
Social
Inspection
Services

NGOS
Payoke
Pag-asa
Surya

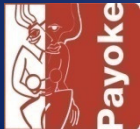
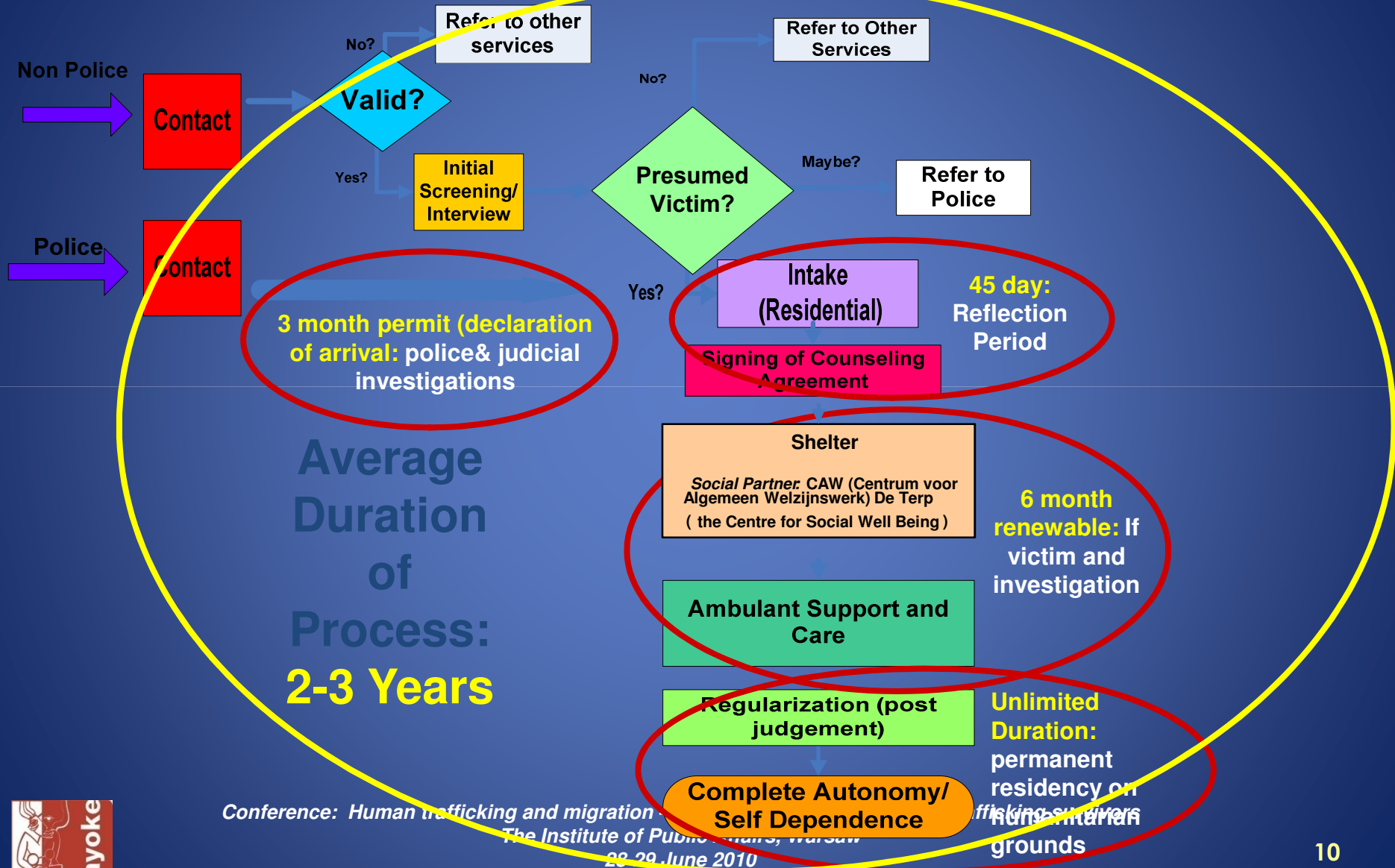


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Payoke's Intake and Assistance Process



Protection - Temporary Residence Procedure



How was this network created?

By involving all those who...

...are most interested in dealing with this issue

...are affected by human trafficking

... can help address the issue

...have knowledge about human trafficking

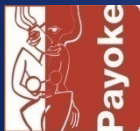
...have the skills required to deal with it

...have influence

...have resources

...will benefit if the issue is addressed

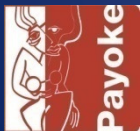
...might bring a diverse viewpoint to the partnership



Positive results seen recently

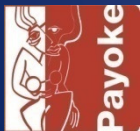
- ✦ Better detection of victims
- ✦ Prompt referrals to specialized victim centres
- ✦ Better investigation techniques and coordination
- ✦ Confiscations awarded to the victims
- ✦ Family reunification

✦ Adapted from “New Approach Towards Human Trafficking in the EU: Raising Awareness and Developing Integrated Action: Belgium’s Experience in Human Trafficking”, presentation by Jozef De Witte , Director, Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR)



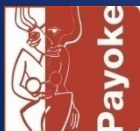
Why is it so difficult to identify victims of human trafficking?

- Lack of legal framework
- Nature of the crime
- Inability to recognise victims
- Absence of a coordinated response to identification
- The way victims view their experiences



Our recommendations for improving victim identification

- ❖ Create a strong network, ensuring good cooperation and coordination mechanisms are in place
- ❖ Clarify roles and responsibilities
- ❖ Ensure key stakeholders are knowledgeable about the crime of trafficking and its victims
- ❖ Train front-line services to be aware of indicators and provide them resources to act upon suspicions
- ❖ Talk to suspected victims using appropriate interviewing techniques
- ❖ Listen, listen, listen!!!



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